AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1.   (Currently Amended) A portable electronic appliance comprising:

a portable electronic appliance having a housing, a data entry device and a display screen;

at least one second sensor disposed on a surface of the housing such that a user ~~can~~ will only make physical contact with the at least one second sensor to thereby actuate the at least one second sensor; and

wherein the at least one second sensor provides contact data to a sensor circuit disposed within the portable electronic appliance, wherein the contact data in the sensor circuit is utilized by a processor within the portable electronic appliance to determine whether or not to activate or deactivate a predetermined function of the portable electronic appliance.

2.   (Currently amended) The portable electronic appliance as defined in claim 1 wherein the portable electronic appliance is selected from the group of portable electronic appliances comprised of a laptop computer, a mobile telephone, a personal digital assistant, a global positioning system, an electronic compass, a camera, and a camcorder~~, and combination devices that include at least two of the functions above~~.

3.   (Original) The portable electronic appliance as defined in claim 1 wherein the at least one second sensor is comprised of a capacitance sensitive touchpad.

4.   (Currently amended) The portable electronic appliance as defined in claim 1 wherein the at least one second sensor is selected from the group of sensors comprised of pressure sensitive, electrostatic, and ~~any other sensing technology that enables detection of contact of a user on the at least one second sensor~~ capacitance sensing.

5.   (Original) The portable electronic appliance as defined in claim 3 wherein the capacitance sensitive touchpad is capable of conforming to arcuate surfaces.

6.   (Original) The portable electronic appliance as defined in claim 3 wherein the capacitance sensitive touchpad is capable of sensing touch.

7.   (Original) The portable electronic appliance as defined in claim 3 wherein the capacitance sensitive touchpad is capable of proximity sensing.

8.   (Original) The portable electronic appliance as defined in claim 3 wherein the at least one second sensor is comprised of a plurality of capacitance sensitive touchpads.

9.   (Original) The portable electronic appliance as defined in claim 1 wherein the at least one second sensor is comprised of at least one general purpose touchpad that can sense position as well as touch or proximity of a touching object to the touchpad.

10.   (Original) The portable electronic appliance as defined in claim 1 wherein the at least one second sensor is comprised of at least one single-layer touchpad that can sense touch or proximity of a touching object to the touchpad.

11.   (Original) The portable electronic appliance as defined in claim 1 wherein the portable electronic appliance is further comprised of a first sensor, wherein the first sensor is capable of determining orientation of the portable electronic appliance.

12.   (Original) The portable electronic appliance as defined in claim 1 wherein the functions that can be activated or deactivated using the at least one second sensor are selected from the group of functions comprised of turning on, turning off, increasing volume, decreasing volume, engaging a speakerphone

mode, disengaging a speakerphone mode, toggling from a first

function to a second function, and toggling from a second

function back to a first function.

13.   (Currently amended) A portable electronic appliance

comprising:

      a portable electronic appliance having a housing, a data

entry device and a display screen;

      at least one second sensor disposed underneath a surface of

the housing such that a user is detected using proximity sensing

capabilities of the at least one second sensor, and wherein the

at least one second sensor is actuated only by detection of the

user; and

      wherein the at least one second sensor provides proximity

sensing data to a sensor circuit disposed within the portable

electronic appliance, wherein the proximity sensing data in the

sensor circuit is utilized by a processor within the portable

electronic appliance to determine whether or not to activate or

deactivate a predetermined function of the portable electronic

appliance.

14.   (Original) A method for determining where a user is touching

a portable electronic appliance, said method comprising the steps

of:

1)   providing a housing, a data entry device and a display screen for the portable electronic appliance;

2)   providing at least one second sensor disposed on a surface of the housing such that a user can make physical contact with the at least one second sensor; and

3)   wherein the at least one second sensor provides contact data to a sensor circuit disposed within the portable electronic appliance, wherein the contact data in the sensor circuit is utilized by a processor within the portable electronic appliance to determine whether or not to activate or deactivate a predetermined function of the portable electronic appliance.

15.   (Original) The method as defined in claim 14 wherein the step of providing the portable electronic appliance is further comprised of selecting the portable electronic appliance from the group of portable electronic appliances comprised of a laptop computer, a mobile telephone, a personal digital assistant, a global positioning system, an electronic compass, a camera, a camcorder, and combination devices that include at least two of the functions above.

16.   (Original) The method as defined in claim 14 wherein the step of providing the at least one second sensor is further comprised of providing a capacitance sensitive touchpad.

17.   (Original) The method as defined in claim 14 wherein the

step of providing the at least one second sensor is further

comprising of selecting the at least one second sensor from the

group of sensors comprised of pressure sensing, electrostatic

sensing, and any other sensing technology that enables detection

of contact of a user on the at least one second sensor.

18.   (Currently amended) The method as defined in claim 16

wherein the method further comprises the step of conforming the

capacitance sensitive touchpad to arcuate surfaces of the

portable electronic appliance.

19.   (Original) The method as defined in claim 16 wherein the

method is further comprised of the step of providing a

capacitance sensitive touchpad that is capable of sensing touch.

20.   (Original) The method as defined in claim 16 wherein the

method is further comprised of the step of providing a

capacitance sensitive touchpad that is capable of proximity

sensing.

21.   (Original) The method as defined in claim 16 wherein the

method of providing at least one second sensor is further

comprised of the step of providing a plurality of capacitance

sensitive touchpads.

22. (Original) The method as defined in claim 14 wherein the

method of providing the at least one second sensor is further

comprised of the step of providing at least one general purpose

touchpad that can sense position as well as touch or proximity of

a touching object to the touchpad.

23. (Original) The method as defined in claim 14 wherein the

method of providing the at least one second sensor is further

comprised of providing at least one single-layer touchpad that

can sense touch or proximity of a touching object to the

touchpad.

24. (Original) The method as defined in claim 14 wherein the

method further comprises the step of providing a first sensor,

wherein the first sensor is capable of determining orientation of

the portable electronic appliance.

25. (Original) The method as defined in claim 14 wherein the

step of providing functions that can be activated or deactivated

using the at least one second sensor are selected from the group

of functions comprised of turning on, turning off, increasing

volume, decreasing volume, engaging a speakerphone mode,

disengaging a speakerphone mode, toggling from a first function

to a second function, and toggling from a second function back to

a first function.